

BLUE & GOLD

Pitt Year of Creativity Grants Spark Campus Programming

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg is the recipient of four grant awards through the University of Pittsburgh's Pitt Year of Creativity funding program. Pitt continues to develop ways to expand the educational experience throughout its system. One way that it does this is by designating a particular theme for the academic year, and then making matching funds available through Pitt's Office of the Provost. Pitt's regional campuses, schools, and departments are encouraged to submit proposals for programming that incorporates this theme, which then provides new experiences and learning opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

The 2019-2020 academic year was designated as the Pitt Year of Creativity. (<http://bit.ly/PittYrOfCreativity>).

Four projects proposed by Pitt-Greensburg faculty and staff received funding.

- Jeanne Burth, EdD, and Melissa Marks, EdD, both associate professors of education, received funding for the **2020 Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) Teacher Leadership Institute** that will be held at Pitt-Greensburg in February 2020. The institute benefits Pitt-Greensburg education majors and other pre-service teachers from the SPSEA contingent regions. Keynote speaker Chad J. Willett will discuss the importance of creativity in the classroom. In a breakout session, Willett also will assist students in adding creativity and critical thinking to their instruction and planning. Funds will also be used for a breakout session where participants will design a Wonder Box/Space to facilitate STEM learning, and for a post-conference follow-up session where students actually construct the Wonder Boxes for their own classrooms or to donate to a local classroom.

- Sheila Confer, EdD, director of the Academic Village, received funding to **commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Academic Village** through a series of events showcasing the past while moving forward with new opportunities for students and the local community. These include a series of faculty-led mini-conferences and panels where students will engage in research and learning about specific issues from every angle. These topics include "Legislative Action" (November 2019), "Unraveling the Mystery about CRISPR," a molecular biology tool that allows for the editing of genomes (February 2020), "Drug Legalization" (March 2020), and "Climate Change" (April 2020).



- Wendy Hardy, EdD, associate professor of early childhood education, received funding to bring **Lindsay Barrett George, children's author and illustrator**, to the region. George will facilitate free workshops focusing on family literacy and illustration for preschool-aged children and their parents/adult caretakers at the Greensburg Hempfield Public Library (March 18 at 6:30 p.m.) and Peters Township Public Library (March 20 at 6:30 p.m.). George also will host a book reading/signing at the Daily Grind (March 19 at 4:30 p.m.; New Stanton, PA). Pitt-Greensburg students interested in publishing and/or illustrating children's books or using writing and visual arts to engage young children will work with George at three campus workshops. Peters Township teachers and librarians will participate in a tea (March 20 at noon) and workshop (March 20 at 4:30

p.m.) facilitated by George. The project seeks to improve early literacy by increasing interaction between young children and their adult caretakers, while showing the benefits of reading, writing, and creating with children on a daily basis.

- Timothy Holler, PhD, assistant professor of criminal justice, received funding that will be applied to the next **Community Arts and Reintegration Project (CARP)**, set for New Kensington, PA. Through collaboration with Westmoreland Community Action, Pitt-Greensburg's Center for Applied Research (CFAR), Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation, and the City of New Kensington, CARP will use the development of a large-scale mural to aid in the reintegration of juvenile probationers into the community while also contributing to the area's revitalization efforts. During the community paint days, Pitt-Greensburg students serve as mentors to the youth probationers. The funding awarded by the Pitt Year of Creativity will be used to support printing expenses, refreshments for community meetings and paint days, as well as multi-media support for the mural dedication event.

- The Pitt Year of Creativity sparked the campus participation in **PARK(ing) Day** in September 2019, which allowed the campus community to express their creativity in a campus parking space for the day, and a **Scarecrow Design Competition**, where the winners were judged during our October Admissions Open House.

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Message from the President

Greetings from Lynch Hall!

An early November snowfall that blanketed the buildings and grounds was an exciting day for me but a “dress rehearsal” for what typically comes to campus each January and February. For me, it was the first snowfall that I’d seen in many years. For most students, faculty, and staff, it was probably not very interesting or maybe even was seen a nuisance.

Our facilities staff did a great job early in the morning, making sure that the sidewalks and streets were safe for pedestrians and drivers. I have found that this level of dedication is shared across the University by the faculty and staff. It is very gratifying to know that we have a common commitment to making Pitt-Greensburg a great place to live and learn.



As we start the new year and the spring semester, we often reflect on what came before. The end of the semester is a time of year when all members of our community start feeling the pressure of impending assignments, final exams, and the fast-approaching holidays. We understand the stresses that college life can produce for our students and have resources to help ensure that any concerns that they have are addressed in a positive way that promotes their ability to achieve their goals. This is another manifestation of the ideal of “educating the whole student” through our commitment to meet their academic and personal needs.

We continue to look at ways to improve our campus, both through our programming and our facilities. Planning and meetings are in process to make improvements to our campus. We eagerly look forward to announcing the finalized plans and sharing our news. Watch for updates in future issues of *Blue & Gold* and on our website. We eagerly anticipate the great accomplishments that our students, faculty, and staff will achieve when our plans come to fruition.

Recruitment for freshmen and transfer students to join Pitt-Greensburg in fall 2020 is well underway. The many opportunities for new students include the possibility of joining our fourth cohort of nursing students, thereby completing the launch of the BSN degree, and a new data analytics program that combines elements of information technology, computer science, mathematics, and business. Students in this program will have a wealth of opportunities across a wide range of industries, as do all our graduates. Please continue to recommend prospective students to Pitt-Greensburg. A visit to our campus to meet our faculty, staff, and students will show them all we have to offer—a welcoming, inclusive community of teachers and learners working together to achieve their educational, career, and personal goals.

Thank you very much for your support.

Hail to Pitt!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Gregerson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Robert Gregerson
President

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

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150 Finoli Drive, Lynch Hall 203
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-836-7497

pgnews@pitt.edu

www.greensburg.pitt.edu

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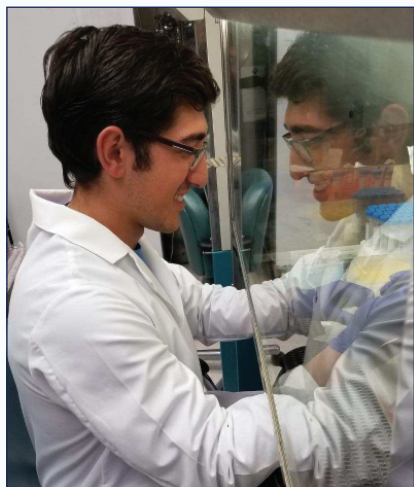
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The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.

Scholarships are investments in students



“Thank you for supporting me and my life goals. Donors who make scholarships possible invest in us as students, and I want to show them that their investment in my education will be met with a dedication to academic excellence and service.”

— George Panagis

Senior biology major with minors in chemistry and psychology.
2016 recipient of a full-tuition scholarship to attend Pitt-Greensburg

George’s quote could be repeated over and over again by the 40 percent of Pitt-Greensburg students who annually receive scholarships funded by Pitt-Greensburg.

“This scholarship has allowed me to gain unique

world perspectives through world travel. With these new perspectives, I have reaffirmed my passion to serve others as a physician. While this scholarship has motivated me academically to perform well in class in order to maintain the scholarship, it also inspires me to continuously serve my community and represent Pitt-Greensburg,” explained George, who will be attending medical school in fall 2020 with aspirations to become a surgeon.

His passion for helping others continues through his work outside of the classroom where he serves as an emergency medical technician (EMT), Big Brother mentor, CPR instructor, and a stem cell/regenerative medicine researcher.

“I know I have been fortunate to have received this scholarship. Going into graduate school without any student debt has eased the stress of medical school expenses.

“If I hadn’t received this scholarship, I would likely be working more to cover a portion of my college expenses. Consequently, this would have limited my ability to be involved on campus, volunteer in the community, or benefit from the opportunity to commute to Pittsburgh each week and conduct medical research while taking classes at the Greensburg campus.”

Thank you for your support that allows us to help students, like George, to pursue their dreams.

If you would like to make a gift to one of our endowed scholarship funds or create a scholarship fund in your name or in memory of a loved one, please contact Jodi Kraisinger, director of University Relations and Institutional Advancement, by calling 724-836-9942 or emailing kraising@pitt.edu.

Technology for the Future Fund: You are helping us to meet our goal!

For the past three years, you have been helping us to build an endowment that will be used to maintain and improve technology on the Pitt-Greensburg campus. **Each gift designated for the Technology for the Future Fund has been matched—dollar-for-dollar—through the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) Title III grant.** At this writing, **you have helped us to raise \$138,482 toward our overall goal of \$250,000**—that will ultimately result in a \$500,000 endowment when our dollars are matched by the SIP grant!

We still need your help in raising the remaining \$111,518 over the next two years that will bring us to our total goal of \$250,000.

- We were close to making our third-year goal of \$50,000, with \$49,114.90 raised. Your gift to the Technology to the Future Fund during this year’s annual fund campaign will assist us in reaching our goal.
- Your commitment to making a donation this year will ensure that Pitt-Greensburg receives money available to us via the SIP Title III grant’s dollar-for-dollar match.

The Technology for the Future Fund will help Pitt-Greensburg respond to the changing technology needs of its students, faculty, and staff. It is an investment in the future, in our students, and in our campus. Visit <http://bit.ly/Pitt-Gbg-Give-Now> or www.greensburg.pitt.edu/tech-challenge to make your gift today.

\$100,000 \$138,482
raised to date through donations

4-YEAR GOAL:
\$200,000

It's a \$1 to \$1 match!

Your gift will help us meet the ever-changing technology needs of our campus. This dollar-to-dollar match is part of the Title III Strengthening Institutions grant.

TECHNOLOGY for the FUTURE CHALLENGE

Thank you to the donors who have contributed to our Challenge.

Can we count on you to help us raise \$61,518 by Sept. 30 to reach our goal of \$200,000?

The Power of One Donor

The Power of One says that YOU can make a difference, YOUR voice, YOUR participation, YOUR donation matters.

Every gift counts. Every gift is multiplied. To make your gift, visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu/tech-challenge.

The Power of One Community: Pitt-Greensburg making a difference in the lives of others

Pitt Make A Difference Day

Bruiser stopped by to cheer on Brandon Cross (from left), Maria Bardis, and John Kerlicker while they were painting at the Hempfield No. 2 Volunteer Fire Department site during Pitt Make A Different Day in October 2019. Pitt-Greensburg is proud to have sent 51 volunteers to nine sites to work on 10 projects during this year's Pitt Make a Difference Day.



Fall Into the Streets 2019

Pitt-Greensburg sent 121 volunteers to 13 Westmoreland County sites to work on 33 different projects during this year's Fall Into the Streets. Among the opportunities that students had to choose from were prepping and packing meals for Tri-City meals on Wheels, reading to children in Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K Counts classrooms, and visiting local nursing homes where they interacted with senior citizens and assisted with craft projects. Here, Zack Leydig (from left), Alex Rodriguez, and Brock McCormack planted trees for the Jacobs Creek Watershed Association in Scottsdale, PA.



United Way Day of Caring

Pitt-Greensburg was well-represented at service sites for the 2019 United Way Day of Caring. Dr. Robert Gregerson joined Pitt-Greensburg Student Alumni Association (SAA) members Cassandra Colland (left) and Samantha Lemley (right) in volunteering at Clelian Heights where they met Sister Benjamin Merlotti, ASCJ. Nine members of the Student Services staff spent the day painting the exterior of the Tri-City Meals on Wheels building in Greensburg. This was the 16th year that Student Services had participated in the event.



Chemo Comfort Care Totes for local patients

In December 2019, members of the Pitt-Greensburg Men's and Women's Basketball teams, along with community members, packed 415 Chemo Comfort Care totes to be donated to the three local Arnold Palmer Treatment Centers near campus. More than \$12,450 was raised by members of the Greensburg community, including the Pitt-Greensburg Volleyball team, Pitt-Greensburg faculty and staff, along with Hempfield students and sports teams, that was used to purchase items for the totes valued at \$30 each as well as to jump start next year's project.



Pitt Success Pell Grant program making college affordable and accessible

In February 2018, the University of Pittsburgh announced the creation of the Pitt Success Pell Match program, the largest restructuring of financial aid in the institution's 232-year history. The Pitt Success Pell Match Program leverages the power of the US Department of Education's Pell Grant program by matching these federal funds, dollar for dollar up to the cost of attendance, for all eligible students across all five of Pitt's campuses. The goal: to help make Pitt more affordable and accessible for students and families.

"We want any prospective student with the desire and the qualifications to be able to attend the University of Pittsburgh and succeed," Chancellor Patrick Gallagher said. "This program is one means to that end. It is part of a comprehensive charge that our University is advancing—one initiative at a time—to help all students access a Pitt education, afford a Pitt education, and then excel in their Pitt education."

At Pitt-Greensburg, approximately one-third of our student population, or about 500 students, are benefiting from the program. System-wide, roughly 5,000 students receive Pell Grants with the average grant award being \$4,500. Pitt estimates that its total investment in students with financial need across all campuses will top \$130 million in 2019-2020—a 47 percent increase compared to contributions five years ago. Pitt estimates that 84 percent of recipients will be in-state students.

"For the past few decades, the Pell grant has afforded low-income college-seeking students the opportunity to pursue their dreams of higher education. To date, billions of dollars



have been provided nationally, to those who demonstrate financial need through FAFSA completion," said Dana Bearer, director of Admissions at Pitt-Greensburg. "There is no doubt that the Pitt Success Pell Match program will impact our students greatly. The Pell Match Program is a central theme for our recruiting efforts this year. We want to help students earn their Pitt degree in the most cost effective way possible. Matching the Pell Grant, dollar for dollar, may significantly reduce student debt load for some of our students."

For students on the University's four regional campuses—where nine out of 10 students are Pennsylvania residents—this new initiative boosts Pitt's investment in financial need by 68 percent and increases the University's average financial aid award by 114 percent compared to five years ago.

The Pitt Success Pell Match program immediately reduces the total cost of a Pitt education for qualifying students and their families—and in doing so, reduces overall student loan debt. Pitt also expects recipients to be able to reduce time spent at paid employment, allowing them to expand their time engaged in studies or University activities with less worry about financial commitments and constraints.



Upcoming Events:



Professional Impressions: Alumni Volunteers Needed

Professional Impressions will be held on Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hempfield Room. Presented by the Offices of Alumni Relations and Career Services, Professional Impressions provides students with professional experience through a networking dinner with an emphasis on dining etiquette followed by an alumni panel discussion.

Alumni volunteers are needed to lead career discussions at the table and to join the alumni panel. Alumni do not need to teach dining etiquette. Interested alumni may register at <http://bit.ly/PittGbg-Alumni-Panel>.

PGAA Board Accepting Nominations for 2020 Election

Join the **Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA) Board of Directors**, the official representative group of Pitt-Greensburg alumni. The Board of Directors serves a critical role by providing strategic

direction, resources, and professional expertise to help carry out the PGAA mission. Members serve in an advisory capacity to the Office of Alumni Relations and on the Professional Development, Engagement, and Events Committees.

You are invited to nominate candidates to serve one term of three years, beginning Wednesday, July 1. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, March 27. Learn more about the responsibilities and duties at <http://bit.ly/PGAA-Board>.

Commencement 2020

Welcome the Class of 2020 into the Pitt-Greensburg alumni family! Alumni are invited to participate at multiple activities throughout graduation including the **Senior Send-Off, New Alumni Reception, Family Appreciation Dinner, Alumni Leadership Meeting, and Commencement**. For details, check out the alumni events page at <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/events>.



To **march in Commencement and attend the President's Breakfast**, register by Monday, March 30. Registration information can be found at <http://bit.ly/PGAA-RSVP-Commencement>.



The PGAA hosted a **Pitt Send-Off** Event at Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill in Greensburg on Tuesday, July 30. Fifty-eight guests, which included incoming and current students, alumni, staff, family and friends, attended the event. Dr. Robert Gregerson, new campus president, was on hand to welcome the incoming students. They enjoyed giveaways, Blue & Gold bingo, and light refreshments.

The **Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg** was a success with 126 pieces of art on display from 49 contributing artists who included alumni, staff, students, and community members. The show, which was open for



viewing over a two-week period during the annual Blue & Gold Celebration, included an Artists Reception where fan favorites and judges' picks were recognized.

Winners included:

- Painting: 1st – Barry Shields, 2nd – Sofia Herr, 3rd – Mary Ellen Raneri
- Drawing: 1st – Jasmine Lear, 2nd – Carmen Hill, 3rd – Shelley Poli
- Mixed Media: 1st – Julie Yankovich, 2nd – Dylan Pieszak, 3rd – Hannah Entreklin
- Photography: 1st – Karen Kaighin, 2nd – Jason Reed, 3rd – Amber McAlister
- Fan Favorites: 1st – Jaqueline Dradzinski '22, 2nd – Steph Moraca '12, and Doris Wood



As part of the **Pittsburgh campus' homecoming festivities**, the PGAA hosted a table at the Welcome Back Reception in the Cathedral of Learning on Friday, October 25, and sponsored the Pitt-Greensburg tent at the official Pre-game Tent and Tailgate Village on Saturday, October 26.

SAVE THE DATE:
SEPT. 25 - OCT. 8

BLUE & GOLD
Celebration

Friday, September 25

- Pitt-Greensburg Golf Outing
- Art Show @ Pitt-Greensburg

Saturday, October 3

- Homecoming Festival
- Welcome Back Picnic
- Alumni Celebration Dinner
- Casino Night

Thursday, October 8

- Founders Day Celebration
- 2nd Annual Founders Day Duck Dash



The PGAA held the **Campus to Career Alumni Panel** on Wednesday, November 13. The alumni panelists spoke about their career journeys and offered advice about mentoring, learning from mistakes, and industry-specifics for fields including business, criminal justice, nursing, law, engineering, and social work.



Members of the PGAA were out and about for a paint and potluck night at **Painting with a Twist** in Greensburg. The group painted a lighthouse landscape.



On Saturday, November 30, the **Men's Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC)** hosted a reunion/recognition game. At half-time, the Athletics Department recognized over 40 returning alumni, coaches, and staff. Special

recognition was given to the '98-'99/'99-'00 team, who celebrated the 20th anniversary of their back-to-back AMCC championship seasons, the '04-'05 team, who marked the 15th anniversary of their regular season AMCC championship, and the '69-'70 team, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of basketball at Pitt-Greensburg. A post-game reception was hosted at The Boulevard in Greensburg.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PittGreensburgAlumni/photos> to view photos from the event.



In December 2019, the PGAA welcomed the holiday season at its **Merry Mingle** in Millstein Library. Alumni and their guests posed for holiday photos with Bruiser and then went on to enjoy the hot chocolate bar, appetizers, desserts, signature drink, beer bar, and wine. Other fun included prize drawings, a 50/50 raffle, and an ugly sweater contest.

Alumni Spotlight: John Felice '67

John M. Felice '67, Pitt-Greensburg's first enrolled student, has been called a Renaissance Man. With a five-decade career that includes blues musician, sailing, and labor negotiator/arbitrator, it's an apt description. Felice credits Pitt-Greensburg as the springboard for his long and varied career.

Felice did not follow a traditional route to college. He started out as a blues musician playing and traveling with bands and was also one of the first upright bass players with the Westmoreland Symphony. Returning from life on the road, he decided to pursue college.

He was pleased to learn from Albert Smith, Pitt-Greensburg's first president and a family friend, that the University of Pittsburgh would be opening a Westmoreland County campus. The small classes and individual attention from excellent professors, like English professor Dr. Norman McWhinney, provided a great learning experience. Those formative years provided him with a skill set he still utilizes.

Like most students in the campus' early years, Felice transferred to the Pittsburgh campus to complete his degree. It was there that a visiting Economics professor from Australia inspired his life's work. The professor's talks on Australian labor courts fascinated Felice. With his interest sparked, he pursued labor relations and economics. Graduating from Pitt, he completed his graduate work at the University of Illinois where he not only learned the history of labor relations, but worked as a research assistant to the co-chairman of the Illinois Governor's Commission for Public Employees Rights to negotiate.

At the forefront of labor relations, he worked as a state mediator for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Mediation. He resolved the first teachers' strike in the state and served as the first Director of Labor Relations for the Governor's Office of Pennsylvania where he co-authored Pennsylvania's Public Employee Law (Act 195), which granted collective bargaining rights to public employees.

After working under two governors, he returned to southwestern Pennsylvania, where he worked as an assistant professor in the

business school and Director of Labor Relations at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. While there, Felice created the School of Labor and Employment Relations, establishing the curriculum and developing the graduate program.

From there, he began practicing in the labor relations and human resources field, eventually founding Felice Associates, Inc., which represented employers in negotiations and related human resources matters. The firm recently merged with a national HR consulting firm. He still practices as a labor arbitrator throughout the United States and has over 200 published decisions.

Felice's pursuits are not limited to labor relations. Childhood gifts of erector sets gave him a love for structure. Through his development company, he pursues this passion by renovating historic properties. He takes great pride in the restoration done on the building next door to his office in Greensburg, an 1850s hotel, that he restored by turning it into apartments.

He also spent time in competitive sailing after a visit to Annapolis, MD, for a Pitt/Navy game sparked his interest. He attended the Annapolis School of Sailing to hone his skills. It's the sailing axiom, "Chart the course. Stay the course," by which he lives.

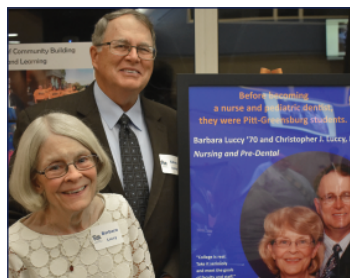
Recently, he purchased Prantl's Bakery, which is known for its famous Burnt Almond Torte. The bakery is considered one of the top bakeries in the country. Felice has expanded the bakery which now includes three retail stores as well as a commissary. In 2020, he plans to expand the business internationally.

This Renaissance Man is still looking forward. He's writing a book on public sector labor laws.

As for the campus he calls "the genesis of his career," he has proudly watched it evolve and participated in its growth as a Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association Board of Director. He was also the recipient of an Alumni of Distinction award and the subject of an Alumni Pawprint Poster.



Alumni Pawprints Poster Project showcases alumni achievements



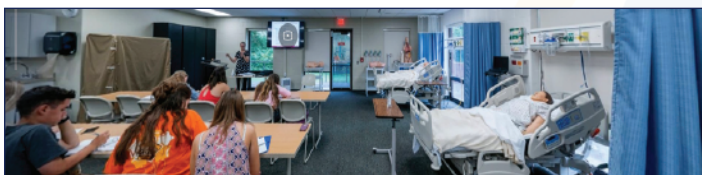
The faces of alumni will soon grace the walls of buildings around campus as part of the Alumni Pawprints Poster Project. In spring 2019, the Office of Alumni Relations and University Relations and Institutional Advancement received a grant from the Pitt Alumni Association (PAA) for the project which highlights thriving alumni across generations and disciplines. This first group of posters showcases 19 alumni, including the first student to register at Pitt-Greensburg, couples, successful entrepreneurs, and a legacy family. From life on campus to advice for current Bobcats, the alumni and their stories will serve as inspiration to the campus community and visitors.

The posters will be displayed at various locations around campus. Featured alumni include: Laura Wagner Aftosmis '91, Charles Aftosmis '90, Jason Downey '07, John M. Felice '67, Anthony Garsteck Jr. '74, Jason Garsteck '15, Alexandria Garsteck '16, Nate LaSor '14, Dr. Chris Luccy '70, Barbara Luccy '70, Bill McIntosh '03, Justin Merriman '00, Dr. Brian Moreland '98, Dave Newman '93, Terri Glenn Petrick '79, Kirk Reese '94, Katelyn E. Sadler '11, Chad E. Smith '08, and Joyce Wineland '71.

To view the posters online, please visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni/pawprints>.

Pawprints

Pitt-Greensburg introduces new virtual campus tour



Stop by the Pitt-Greensburg website (www.greensburg.pitt.edu) and click on the link to access our new virtual campus tour. Created in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh, this YouVisit production features high-resolution, 360-degree imagery and informative videos about the Pitt-Greensburg experience. Incorporating an introduction by a current Pitt-Greensburg student, this easy-to-use tour works on a desktop computer, mobile device, or tablet. Visit <http://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/virtual-tour> to explore our campus. We encourage you to share the link with prospective students in your life, as this is an easy way for them to become familiar with Pitt-Greensburg.

CFAR assisting with Pitt's Community Engaged Scholarship Forum



Geoffrey Wood, PhD, assistant professor of sociology and director of Pitt-Greensburg's Center for Applied Research (CFAR), serves as a member of the working group for the Community Engaged Scholarship Forum that is planning the forum set for March 2020. The Community Engaged Scholarship Forum annually celebrates the diversity of community-engaged work across

the University of Pittsburgh and is under the leadership of the University of Pittsburgh Office of the Chancellor and Office of the Provost. The forum is where faculty, students, staff, and community members come to present their community-engaged work, discover new avenues of partnership, network with those who do similar work, and celebrate Pitt's commitment to community engagement. This year, CFAR faculty and Pitt-Greensburg undergraduates will be involved in the conference.

Education majors present at national conference



Senior secondary education majors Cameron Collins, Haley Stonebreaker, Rowan Alexander, and Terrance Madrish traveled with Melissa Marks, EdD, associate professor of

education and director of the education department, to the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS). The students' program, "Civil Rights: Now and Then," was accepted by NCSS for presentation at the annual conference held in November in Austin, TX. This proposal was chosen through a rigorous juried and refereed process from among more than 1,300 submissions.

Their workshop focuses on content and strategies to teach changes over time in civil rights. The presentation first centered on changes in women's rights and marriage laws and then focused on how to teach history in all of its complexity and reflecting all groups in the United States. This workshop was presented to practicing K-12 social studies teachers, curriculum directors, and educators across the United States.

Suppo has two articles published

Jennifer Suppo, EdD, associate professor of education, came to Pitt-Greensburg in fall 2019 and has already published two articles during her short time here. "Steps to inclusion . . . Dance steps that is!" was co-authored with T. Swank and appeared in *Dance Education in Practice*, 5:4, 17-23. Also co-authored with T. Swank was "Embracing collaboration through the lens of exceptional needs dance: A mixed methods study" which appeared in the recent edition of *Journal of Dance Education*.

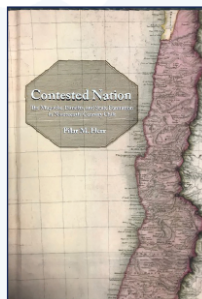
Slonka's textbook translated into Mandarin for use in Chinese universities



Kevin Slonka's textbook, *Assembly Programming and Computer Architecture for Software Engineers* (Prospect Press), was recently translated into Mandarin by China Machine Press due to adoptions by Chinese universities. This is the first translation of a textbook published by Prospect Press, which was founded by a former employee of Wiley. In addition to its use in China, Slonka's textbook is currently used in universities across the United States. Slonka, ScD, assistant professor of information science, also had two papers published in October and November

that focused on IT and security in healthcare: "Healthcare professionals' perception of the usability of electronic medical records," published in *Issues in Information Systems*, and "Addressing issues with EMR resulting in workarounds: An exploratory study," published in the *Proceedings of the Conference on Information Systems Applied Research*. These papers were quantitative and qualitative studies, respectively, that suggest ways forward in the current inefficient (read: broken) electronic medical record environment to ensure the security of the systems, but more importantly, the safety of the patients.

Herr authors book on Chilean history; leads spring break trip to Spain



December 1, 2019, was the official publication date for *Contested Nation: The Mapuche, Bandits, and State Formation in Nineteenth-Century Chile* (University of New Mexico Press, 2019). Pilar Herr, PhD, assistant professor of history, authored this book that advances the understanding of early state formation in Chile by viewing this process through the lens of Chilean-Mapuche relations. Herr provides a thorough historical context and suggests

that Araucanía was central to the process of post-independence nation building and territorial expansion in Chile. *Contested Nation* argues that with Chilean independence, Araucanía—because of its status as a separate nation-state—became essential to the territorial integrity of the new Chilean Republic. This book studies how Araucanía's indigenous inhabitants, the Mapuche, played a central role in the new Chilean state's pursuit of an expansionist policy that simultaneously exalted indigenous bravery while relegating the Mapuche to second-class citizenship. It also examines other subaltern groups, particularly bandits, who challenged the nation-state's monopoly on force and were thus regarded as criminals and enemies unfit for citizenship in Chilean society



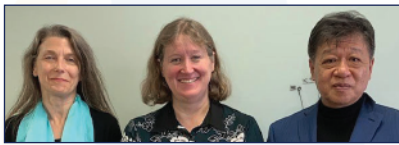
Herr also will lead 16 students in exploring Spain during spring break. The group, including two students from the Pittsburgh campus, will begin their experience in Madrid, take a day trip to Segovia, and travel to Granada in Southern Spain. This one-credit course, History and Identity in Spain, will focus on historically important sites, while developing an understanding of the interconnectedness of Spanish identity and geographical spaces, along with understanding the architectural, artistic, and cultural influences on Spanish identity. It also will seek to develop the students' critical assessment skills when considering the evolution of Spanish identity over history.

Pawprints continued from page 8



Spring break study abroad trip planned for Ireland

Paul Adams, PhD, associate professor of political science, will lead 12 students to Belfast and Dublin over spring break. The students are enrolled in the Conflict and Peacebuilding in Ireland and Northern Ireland Study Abroad course, a one-credit opportunity for students to learn about and travel there. This is the third such trip since 2017. The course and the trip are directly related to Adams' research on governance in Northern Ireland that included two conference presentations in 2019 at the Conference of Europeanists in Madrid in June and the Northeastern Political Science Association in Philadelphia in November. Adams received a Hewlett International Grant from the University Center of International Studies and two grants from the European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh to conduct onsite research in Belfast and Derry in Northern Ireland during the summer of 2019 as well.



Asplin speaks at Chinese University of Hong Kong

In December 2019, Kristen Asplin, PhD, assistant professor of psychology, gave a talk to the Applied Psychology Department at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shenzhen, China. Her talk was entitled "Children's ability to understand media and the importance of co-viewing." She offered simple strategies that parents, psychologists, and teachers can use to help children understand TV, movies, and other media, and lessen their negative effects. Asplin (center) shared this photo that includes Liane Jeschull (left), lecturer in the English Program, and X.T. Wang PhD, professor and director of Applied Psychology.

Wellness and Resilience course part of spring semester

Sheila Confer, EdD, director of the Academic Village and instructor of theatre arts and first-year studies, and Gayle Pamerleau, director of Counseling, are co-teaching a new course, Wellness and Resilience for College and Beyond. The course, developed as part of a National-Institute-of-Health-funded study under the leadership of a Pitt researcher at Children's Hospital, includes components for college students, as well as being adaptable for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Under the grant's provisions, five members of the Pitt-Greensburg campus community were trained to teach the course. This spring, Confer and Pamerleau will be contributing to the study. The course provides proven strategies using psychotherapy techniques to make resilience and wellness a lifestyle choice. Topics include, but are not limited to, dealing with stress, practicing mindfulness, as well as asking for a raise and getting it.



Financial Literacy Models now available to campus community

In an effort to improve financial literacy, with funding from the Supplemental Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) Grant, Sharon Turchick, CPA, MBA and assistant professor of management-accounting, developed a series of financial literacy modules that can be incorporated into classes, programs, or departments at Pitt-Greensburg. Faculty and staff are encouraged to use the modules for their personal learning and development as well.

Senior accounting students Heather Kenzevich (standing) and Mara McCutcheon (seated, left) assisted Turchick (seated, right) in building the modules. Brandi Darr, director of Financial Aid, also contributed to the student loan learning module.

The five modules available cover topics on budgeting, credit, employer benefits, investing and student loans. Each module includes a pre-assessment, relevant content, and a post assessment. The goal was to incorporate and supplement pre-existing, reliable, online resources for the

modules that could be more easily updated as necessary for legal and/or tax changes on a regular basis.

Entrepreneurship course now offered

A new management course in Entrepreneurship is now being offered in this spring 2020 term. This course introduces the way American businesses operate and focuses on such topics as business ethics, structures of business organizations, marketing, operations and management, human resources, and financial management. Students participate in the class as members of teams, where each team starts their own plan for a real life business with \$10,000 in funding. The teams address each of those above-mentioned areas as it affects that enterprise. Douglas Harding, visiting instructor of management, is teaching this new course, pulling on his extensive experience in the corporate and business world to our program. Harding was recently involved as a business consultant for the Duquesne University Small Business Development Center where he ran entrepreneurship workshops for people who wanted the start their own business.



Rube Goldberg Machine makes first appearance on campus

While Pitt-Greensburg doesn't have its own engineering program, it is proud of its history of successfully preparing students to go on and earn their degrees in engineering. Mechanical engineering student Adam Craig studied at Pitt-Greensburg for two years before transferring to the Pittsburgh campus. Working with Leigh Hoffman, assistant dean of Student Services, Craig now assists with Pitt-Greensburg's freshman engineering seminar. He helps to develop new ideas and projects to better prepare students for when they transfer into an engineering program. This fall, the students were assigned the task of completing a Rube Goldberg machine, a contraption that uses a chain reaction to accomplish a simple task in a complicated manner. Over the course of about six weeks, the class worked in groups of three to design their part of the project and then collaborated to make all of the components work together—all while learning team work, communication skills, basic concepts for engineering, and problem-solving. At the end of the semester, the class set up the Rube Goldberg machine on the first floor of Cassell Hall and held a live demonstration for the campus community.

Students in Healthcare Management class complete Lean White Belt certification



Seventeen students in Pitt-Greensburg's Introduction to Healthcare Management class completed the Lean White Belt certification process during the fall semester. The class is designed to prepare the students with an understanding of the common challenges faced by healthcare leaders today, and the Lean White Belt certification provides them with an overview of one of the common strategies used by modern healthcare leaders.

Students received four weeks of instruction and hands-on exercises that introduced them to the concepts and tools for developing a Lean patient-focused culture within a healthcare organization. Certification required completion of each of the hands-on workshops and a certification exam. "This certification will benefit the students by providing enhanced leadership skills and skills they can list on their resume and LinkedIn profiles," explained Michael Pry, visiting instructor of information sciences. "This will increase the students' marketability in a competitive job market." Pry and Ronald Ott, director of the Healthcare Management program, taught the class.

Athletics

Women's Soccer team advances to NCAA Div. III Championship Tournament



This past fall, on their way to the NCAA Division III women's soccer championship tournament, the Pitt-Greensburg women's soccer team ensured their place in the campus record book. The team compiled their best season (19-1-1) in the history of the program and won the program's first Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) regular-season and tournament titles, securing an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III women's soccer tournament. The Bobcats traveled to Chicago, IL, for the first round of the tournament, where they faced the University of Chicago, only to fall 5-0 to the Maroons.



Pitt-Greensburg secured home-field advantage for the AMCC post-season tournament with their 9-0-1 conference record that gave them the regular-season title. Sophomore Tiffany Michalek's overtime game-winning goal against D'Youville in a semifinal match sent the Bobcats to the program's second-ever appearance in the AMCC Championship. In the AMCC final, goals from junior Allie Grimm, junior Erika Caldoro, and freshman Ashley Lucas lifted the Bobcats to a 3-2 win over Penn State-Behrend to capture the AMCC Title and the automatic berth into the NCAA tournament.

Six players earned AMCC All-Conference honors, along with Head Coach Chuck Wigle, who was named the AMCC Coach of the Year. Representing the Bobcats on the AMCC First Team were freshman Ashley Lucas, who also earned AMCC Player of the Year and AMCC Newcomer of the Year honors, sophomore goalkeeper Lauren Yoder, who was named the AMCC Defensive Player of the Year, senior Tori Conroy, sophomore Tiffany Michalek, and freshman Alexsia Barlamas. Freshman Brooke Ianarelli earned AMCC Third Team honors for her defensive play during the season.

Fall athletic highlights



Emma Dongilli



Kassi Niver

Two Pitt-Greensburg volleyball players hit career milestones this fall. Senior setter Emma Dongilli became the first player in program history to eclipse 2,000 career digs and senior libero Kassi Niver, topped 1,000 career digs.

Niver is the second player in Pitt-Greensburg history to total 1,000 digs for her career, trailing only head coach Erica Bosh '18 (1,407).

MBAC reunion and recognition game shots



More than 40 alumni, coaches, and staff returned to campus to participate in the Men's Basketball Alumni Club (MBAC) reunion and recognition game. The event celebrated the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 teams and the 20th anniversary of their back-to-back AMCC championship season. It also celebrated the 15th anniversary of the 2004-2005 team's regular season AMCC championship title, and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the men's basketball program with the 1969-1970 team.

To view photos taken throughout the reunion, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PittGreensburgAlumni/photos>.

Winter athletic highlights

The Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball team are 11-2 overall with a 7-1 performance against AMCC opponents, at this writing. After the winter recess, junior guard Matt Johnson (16.0 ppg), junior guard Cam Seigfried (15.7 ppg), and sophomore guard JoJo France (14.9 ppg) held the top spots in scoring. Seigfried also led the team in three-point percentage (.486) and steals (1.8 pg). Senior forward Cody Spaid led the team in rebounds (8.3 rpg). Regular season play resumed January 4 and runs through February 19, followed by the AMCC men's basketball tournament play on February 25, 28, and 29. Head Coach Brody Jackson, with assistance from coaches Harry Bowser '72, Craig Hallman, and Kenny Johnson, directs the team.



The Pitt-Greensburg women's basketball team, led by Head Coach Hayley Schaeztle and Assistant Coach Kelsey Oddis '18, are 6-7 overall with a 4-4 performance against AMCC opponents, at this writing. At the winter recess, Nadege Durand (12.5 ppg) and Maddie Sitler (12.2 ppg) led the team in scoring. Other statistical leaders on the team were Lizzie Penrose (.333 three-point field goal percentage), Shaquoia McCray (.500 field-goal percentage), and Nadege (10.5 rpg and .5 steals per game). Regular season play resumed January 4 and runs through February 19, followed by the AMCC women's basketball tournament play on February 25, 28, and 29.

Visit <https://pittgreensburgathletics.com> for up-to-date details.

The Arts



Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company to present *The Government Inspector*

The Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company, under the direction of Stephen Schrum, PhD, will continue to explore Russia and its idiosyncrasies with the spring production of *The Government Inspector* by Russian playwright Nikolai Gogol, in an adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher.

Set in a small town in Russia, the play focuses on the impending visit by a government inspector who is coming to the town to investigate the local officials. How do these corrupt officials respond? With even more corruption and bribery! When a likely person suddenly appears, they take him for the inspector, and begin to offer him everything from money to the mayor's daughter. In truth, the new arrival is an inept con man, but all too willing to accept anything they have to give. Antics ensue!

Performances for *The Government Inspector* will be March 26 through March 28 at 7:30 p.m. and March 29 at 2 p.m. in the campus' Ferguson Theatre. Tickets for the shows are available only at the door: \$10 (regular), and \$5 (students/seniors/Pitt ID).

Music at Pitt-Greensburg



This spring, Music at Pitt-Greensburg will provide concert goers an opportunity to listen to a variety of performances—all by Pitt-Greensburg students at the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

The Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chambers Singers will present their spring concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 2 and April 3.

The voice and piano students of Cynthia Ortiz and Matt Klump will perform a recital on April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Closing out the semester will be the Senior Capstone Lectures and Recitals, presented by Summer Woodrow and Mia Gilroy, on April 14 at 11:30 a.m.

Music at Pitt-Greensburg opened the spring semester with a February performance by soprano Elizabeth Shoefeld as part of the Joan Chambers Concert Series. Visit Greensburg.pitt.edu/musicseries to learn more about our programs.

Long-time donor shares her memories of Pitt-Greensburg's inception

Pitt-Greensburg visited with Carolyn S. Falcon, Greensburg resident, Pitt alumna, and longtime campus supporter. Falcon earned a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1954. Demonstrating a lifelong commitment to education, Falcon taught in the Hempfield School District for 31 years. She recalls her earliest teaching jobs were in two- or three-room country schools, with 35 to 38 students per room and no phone. She witnessed the consolidation of the schools into what the district is today. Her dedication to the community and higher education extends into her association with the Greensburg College Club. She's been a member since the 1950s.



It was Falcon's affiliation as a Pitt alumna that led to an invitation to the house of fellow alumna Hazel Sowash. There, Carolyn was asked to contribute \$100 to support the establishment of a Pitt campus in Greensburg. Falcon agreed, recalling that it was a lot of money, but it was bringing Pitt to the community and, "if someone like Hazel, in that time, asked you to do something, it was pretty important."

Falcon watched with interest as the University of Pittsburgh's Greensburg campus took shape. Acquainted with the former four presidents, Falcon wants President Robert Gregerson to know that Pitt-Greensburg is an important community resource—"it's a great campus with good lectures."

A yearly contributor to the Pitt-Greensburg campus since 1972, Falcon took a class when the campus first opened on Maple Avenue and continues her edification by visiting Millstein Library and attending lectures, readings, and special events.

An important part of Pitt-Greensburg's sustainability, recurring donations help the campus to achieve its long-term goals. From its beginnings as a two-year institution holding classes in the Vogel building to today's 26-building campus offering 29 baccalaureate degree programs, 19 minors, and numerous pre-professional programs, Pitt-Greensburg's growth continues to depend on the support of alumni, friends, and businesses.

Pitt-Greensburg thanks Falcon—and all of its donors—for being a part of Pitt-Greensburg's growth and for the donors' dedication to Pitt-Greensburg students and their academic experiences.

To learn more about Pitt-Greensburg's priority initiatives, contact Sheila Kudrick, constituent relationship manager at 724-836-7039 or by email at pggiving@pitt.edu. To make your gift today, use the secure link at <http://bit.ly/Pitt-Gbg-Give-Now>.

15th Annual Dr. Bernard Cobetto Lecture Series on contemporary ethical issues

April 7 ♦ 7 p.m. ♦ Ferguson Theater (Smith Hall)

Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the Future of Work

Presenting a distinguished panel of experts who will discuss this issue, including:

- ♦ How much will automation impact jobs of the future?
- ♦ What obligations do we have to manage the effects of technology as it will inevitably influence our life?

Please call 724-836-7980 to ensure a seat at this free event.

Upcoming Events

Events are free and open to the public unless indicated.

February 25

Your gift during our annual **Pitt Day of Giving** helps us to compete for additional funds that support important Pitt-Greensburg initiatives. Watch for details on how you can make a difference for our students and our campus.

February 29

The Pitt-Greensburg chapter of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association (SPSEA) will host its annual Teacher Leadership Institute. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the program runs through 4:30 p.m. in Powers Hall. This event is targeted to pre-service teachers and education majors; please contact Melissa Marks, EdD, at mjm37@pitt.edu to find out how you can participate.

March 8-15

Spring Recess for students (no classes). Campus will be closed for the **Spring Holiday** on March 13.

March 10 & March 25

Representatives of the **All of Us Pennsylvania** will be on campus conducting visits with individuals participating in the nationwide All of Us Research Program, a historic effort to gather data from one million people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. All participants receive a \$25 gift card upon completion of their visit. Schedule an appointment on line at www.JoinAllofUs.org/home/schedule or for more information www.JoinAllofUsPA.org.

March 17

Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Pitt are invited to participate in **Pitt Day in Harrisburg**. Deadline to register is March 6. For details and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/PittDayHarrisburg>.

March 26-29

The **Pitt-Greensburg Theatre Company** will present **The Government Inspector**, a farcical play by Russian playwright Nikolai Gogol, in an adaptation by Jeffrey Hatcher. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. March 26-28 and 2 p.m. March 29. Tickets, available at the door of Ferguson Theater, are \$10 (regular) and \$5 (students).

March 28

The Pitt-Greensburg **Relay for Life** will take place from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Chambers Gymnasium. Contact Brian Root at bkr5@pitt.edu to find out how you can participate. Proceeds from this event benefit cancer research.

April 2 & April 3

The **Pitt-Greensburg Chorale and Chamber Singers** will present their spring concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

April 7

Join us at the **15th Annual Cobetto Lecture** that will feature a panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the Future of Work. Call 724-836-7980 to ensure your seat at this event that begins at 7 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater (Smith Hall).

April 10 & April 28

Representatives of the **All of Us Pennsylvania** will be on campus conducting visits with individuals participating in the nationwide All of Us Research Program, a historic effort to gather data from one million people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. All participants receive a \$25 gift card upon completion of their visit. Schedule an appointment on line at www.JoinAllofUs.org/home/schedule or for more information www.JoinAllofUsPA.org.

April 14

Pitt-Greensburg students will perform in a **voice and piano recital**, showcasing the work accomplished in the campus' voice and piano study. The recital begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Campana Chapel and Lecture Center.

April 18

Our **Preview Pitt/Open House Admissions** Event is one of the best ways to learn about Pitt-Greensburg and our admissions process. While you're here, you will hear from our Admissions team, meet with faculty to learn about our academic programs, and participate in a student-led tour of our campus. Pre-register online at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/admissions/visit-campus.

April 25

Commencement at 11 a.m. in Chambers Hall Gymnasium. Tickets are required for this event, but overflow seating is available.

May 1

A.S. King and Sharon Flake are the keynote speakers for the 24th annual **Children's Literature Conference** at Pitt-Greensburg. These award-winning Young Adult authors will join a group of presenters who seek to help educators and librarians to use books, encourage reading, and foster critical thinking in their programs. Visit <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/millstein/clc> for details and to register.

May 20

Representatives of the **All of Us Pennsylvania** will be on campus conducting visits with individuals participating in the nationwide All of Us Research Program, a historic effort to gather data from one million people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. All participants receive a \$25 gift card upon completion of their visit. Schedule an appointment on line at www.JoinAllofUs.org/home/schedule or for more information www.JoinAllofUsPA.org.

New events are added each week!

Visit www.greensburg.pitt.edu to view additional events.

A complete schedule of athletic events is available at www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics


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PITT DAY OF GIVING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Watch for details! Your gift will make a paw-sitive difference in the lives of our students.

Stay up-to-date with what is happening at Pitt-Greensburg, reconnect with friends, and share your news!

